

TO: Chairman and Members of the Board

DATE: January 17, 2013

**SUBJECT: Requesting Approval to Establish a
Standing Committee on Gang Issues**

AGENDA ITEM: D

RESOURCE PERSON: Oscar E. Villegas

**ACTION: X
INFORMATION:**

Summary: The Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) is responsible for improving public safety through cost-effective, promising, and evidence-based strategies to manage statewide criminal and juvenile justice populations, including addressing gang problems. In preparation for these duties and responsibilities this agenda item requests approval to establish a standing committee on gangs, which includes a request for the Board to appoint a chair to this committee to work with the Executive Director to identify seven (7) members (including the Chair) to serve on this committee. BSCC Board Member Maggard has volunteered to serve as the Chair.

Background: The enabling legislation (SB 92) for the BSCC clearly delineates a responsibility for addressing gang problems. Subsequent legislation has given the BSCC additional responsibilities involving gangs, including the transfer of the duties, powers, and authorities of the Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy (OGYVP) to the BSCC; and effective January 1, 2013, the implementation of the provisions in AB 526 that require the BSCC to change the funding policies for programs and strategies that address gangs and youth violence. The OGYVP and AB 526 responsibilities, in addition to the transfer of the California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) Program and the Gang Violence Suppression (GVS) Program to the BSCC effective July 1, 2012, require that the BSCC establish a process to seek advice from stakeholders and subject matter experts on how best to integrate all gang-related program requirements into a comprehensive strategy to maximize program and cost effectiveness. Establishing a Standing Committee on Gangs will provide the Board with a resource to undertake this work.

The goal is to keep the standing committee relatively small, allowing for scheduling flexibility to meet as needed and minimize scheduling conflicts. This allows the committee the opportunity to provide timely recommendations to the BSCC Board, since the Board's meeting schedule is already set for the upcoming calendar year. It is also recommended that the committee membership attempt to include city and county officials, law enforcement, the district attorney's office, the public defender's office, local education agencies and community-based organizations.

Next Steps: The Executive Director will immediately begin working with the Chair to identify persons to serve on the standing committee.

Recommendation/Action Needed: Staff is requesting the Board appoint one of its members to serve as Chair of the Standing Committee on Gangs and authorize staff to work with the Chair to identify other subject matter experts to serve on the committee. As mentioned above, Board Member Maggard has volunteered to serve as the committee chair.

Resource Person: Oscar E. Villegas, Field Representative, (916) 445-3146 /
oscar.villegas@bscc.ca.gov